CLAIMS:

5

10

15

- 1. An assay for determining rapamycin or rapamycin analog concentrations in a sample comprising:
 - contacting the sample with PKBP12 protein, or with a rapamycin binding fragment of said PKBP12 protein that maintains the rapamycin binding properties, for a time period and under conditions allowing formation of rapamycin/FKBP12 complex;
 - (ii) contacting the rapamycin/FKBP12 complex with a complex-binding domain of mTOR for a time period and under conditions enabling binding of the complex to said complex-binding domain;
 - (iii) detecting the amounts of said complex-binding domain that is bound to the rapamycin/FKBP12 complex;
 - (iv) comparing the amounts detected in (iii) to a calibration curve, thereby determining the rapamycin concentrations in the sample.
- 2. The assay of claim 1, wherein said rapamycin being native rapamycin or synthetically produced rapamycin, or any analog of the two.
- 3. The assay of claim 1, wherein said sample is a liquid, a solid or a semi solid sample.
- 4. The assay of claim 3, wherein said liquid sample is a body fluid selected from plasma, blood, serum, urine, sperm, or cerebral spinal fluid.
 - 5. The Assay of claim 3, wherein said solid sample is a tissue.
 - 6. The assay of claim 3, wherein said sample is semi-solid sample selected from tissues or feces.
- 7. The assay according to claim 4, wherein said liquid sample is mammalian blood.
 - 8. The assay according to claim 1, wherein said FKBP12 protein is full FKBP12 protein being a 12kDa protein or a fragment of FKBP12 protein that maintains the rapamycin binding properties of the full protein.

- 9. The assay according to claim 1, wherein the FKBP12 protein or the fragment thereof is immobilized on a solid substrate.
- 10. The assay according to claim 9, wherein said solid support is a 96-well microtiter plate.
- 5 11. The assay according to claim 10, wherein said microtiter plate is blocked by non specific protein.
 - 12. The assay according to claim 1, wherein said detection is achieved by an ELISA reader.
- 13. The assay of claim 1, wherein said complex binding domain of mTOR is a 10 FRB fragment.
 - 14. The assay according to claim 13, wherein said FRB fragment is directly bound to a detectable label.
 - 15. The assay according to claim 13, wherein said FRB fragment is indirectly bound to a detectable label.
- 15 16. The assay according to claim 14 or 15, wherein said label is capable of generating a signal detectable by a technique selected from coloremtry, spectrophotometry, fluorospectrophotometry, gaseometry or radiospectrometry.
 - 17. The assay according to claim 16, wherein said detectable label is an enzyme capable of producing, in the presence of a suitable substrate, a color reaction.
- 20 18. The assay according to claim 17, wherein said enzyme is alkaline phosphatase or HRP enzyme.
 - 19. The assay according to claim 18, wherein said enzyme is used with a color-forming reagent or reagents selected from p-nitrophenyl phosphate, hydrogen peroxide, o-phenylenediamine and 3,3',5,5'-Tetramethylbenzidine.
- 25 20. A kit for determining rapamycin concentrations, or rapamycin analog concentrations in a sample, the kit comprising:
 - (i) PKBP12 protein or a rapamycin binding portion thereof immobilized on a solid substrate; and

WO 2005/062708 PCT/IL2004/001172

- (ii) a complex-binding domain of mTOR linked to a label that may be detected or that may generate a signal.
- 21. The kit of claim 20, wherein said complex binding domain of mTOR is provided in separate vessel.
- 5 22. The kit according to claim 20, wherein said complex binding domain of mTOR is the 93-amino acids FRB domain, linked to a label that can be detected or that can generate a signal.
 - 23. The kit according to claim 22, wherein said label is capable of generating a signal detectable by a technique selected from coloremtry, spectrophotometry, fluorospectrophotometry, gaseometry or radiospectrometry.

10

25

- 24. The kit according to claim 22, wherein said label is capable of producing a colorimetric reaction.
- 25. The kit according to claim 22, wherein said label is an enzyme capable of producing, in the presence of a suitable substrate, a colorimetric reaction.
- 15 26. The kit according to claim 25, wherein said enzyme is alkaline phosphatase enzyme or HRP enzyme.
 - 27. The kit according to claim 22 further comprising antibodies which are conjugated to an enzyme capable of producing a colorimetric reaction.
- 28. The kit according to claim 27, wherein said antibodies are directed against the FRB fragment.
 - 29. The kit according to claim 24, wherein said antibodies are directed against a tag to which FRB or FRB fragment are being conjugated.
 - 30. The kit according to claim 22 further comprises the label required to generate a signal detectable by a technique selected from coloremtry, spectrophotometry, fluorospectrophotometry, gaseometry or radiospectrometry.
 - 31. The kit according to claim 22 further comprising pre-weighed samples of rapamycin and rapamycin analogs for producing calibration curves.